Arrests made regarding attack on American Information Centre at Kolkata

†1823. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested by the police besides Farhan Malik alias Aftab Ansari who has claimed the responsibility of the attack on the American Information Centre in Kolkata;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of Government officials and Police personnel have also been found involved in issuing a passport to Aftab; and

(c) if so, whether the investigating agencies have got any vital clues in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of West Bengal, so far seven persons have been arrested in connection with the attack on US Information Centre, Kolkata.

(b) and (c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, five persons including some government officials, found *prima-facie* involved in connection with issuing passport to Farhan Malick have been arrested by the Police as part of the ongoing investigations.

Increasing ethnic conflict atmosphere of fear in NER

†1824. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development at work has been hindered much due to increasing ethnic conflict/atmosphere of fear in North-Eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the incidents of kidnapping,

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.